



Water Quality NewsFlash

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303(d) List – State posts draft list of impaired waterways –Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to identify the pollutants causing environmental impairment of specific waterways. These waterbody/pollutant combinations are included on the 303(d) list. For listing purposes, some waterways are divided into segments with one or more pollutants associated with each listed segment. For example, the Sacramento River from Keswick Dam to Cottonwood Cr. will be newly listed for copper and zinc, common constituents of roadway runoff. Once listed, the state (or EPA in the absence of state action) prepares a *total maximum daily load* (TMDL) for the listed waterbody/pollutant. A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant a waterbody can receive from all sources and still meet water quality standards. This “safe” loading of pollutants is then allocated to dischargers and other sources.

The State Water Resources Control Board has now released an update to the 2002 303(d) list. The list is supposed to be updated every two years, however, a large quantity of water quality data was submitted to the Board and additional time was needed to assess this data. In addition, the State Board staff had to use the new listing/delisting criteria adopted by the Board in 2004 (posted at: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/tmdl/303d_listing.html). The new draft list adds 464 water body-pollutant combinations to the 1883 on the current list and recommends delisting 177. Most of the new listings are in the San Diego (122), Los Angeles (92), and Central Coast (71) Regions. The Los Angeles Region had the most recommended delistings (95).

The SWRCB has posted its draft staff report with proposed listings, delistings, and rationale. The 303(d) listings and the resultant TMDLs will have a major impact on water pollution control efforts in California. The SWRCB has scheduled two public workshops to receive comment on the proposed list: December 1, 2005 in Pasadena and December 6 in Sacramento.
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/303d_update.html

Wet Weather Task Force – Los Angeles Region group to meet - During the LA Basin Plan Triennial Review, stakeholders suggested the formation of a Wet Weather Task Force to come up with potential solutions to the challenge of complying with water quality standards and TMDLs during wet weather. The first meeting of the Wet Weather Task Force was held July 27, 2005. The group developed several documents including *Issues and Questions to Potentially Address through the Wet Weather Task Force*. The topics listed are substantive including:

- Is a BMP approach sufficient to result in wet weather compliance with water quality standards?
- Are numeric limits feasible? If so, how would appropriate limits be calculated?
- Are current WQ objectives appropriate given local conditions (e.g. site-specific objectives)?

The group also developed a *Project Idea Matrix*. The next meeting has been scheduled for October 19, 2005, at the Los Angeles Regional Board. For more information, contact Renee Purdy DeShazo at (213) 576-6783 or deshazo@waterboards.ca.gov.

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>